

Cabinet approves law amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved an amendment to the National Health Institution (NHI) law. According to the amendment a board of trustees would replace the institution's board of directors and the NHI director general would have the powers of a minister. During a regular session, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet also approved an amendment to the law of public purchasing, an amendment to the Department of Urban Development law and another to the civilian students fund at Mu'ta University.

Jordan Times

An independent English political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردنية للصحافة والنشر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للصحافة والنشر

Volume 14 Number 3985

AMMAN SUNDAY JANUARY 15, 1989, JUMADA AL AQIRA 7, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

EEC begins peace mission

MADRID (AP) — Spain's foreign minister left for Israel Saturday on a European Economic Community (EEC) mission to sound out leaders there on possible advances towards an international peace conference involving direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez left for Israel 24 hours after holding detailed talks here with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, who urged EEC nations to pressure Israel to accept direct talks with the PLO (see page 2).

Prior to leaving, Fernandez Ordóñez told reporters at the airport: "I'm not going to Israel to attempt any kind of pressure or to give advice."

"I'm going in the name of the EEC, Israel's most important trading partner, to try to learn in

In comments made Friday to Spanish reporters and published Saturday in Spain's leading daily *El País*, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was quoted as saying:

"The best that the European democracies can do is support us (Israel), ... support our positions and not ask us to make concessions."

During his 48-hour stay Fernandez Ordóñez was to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a strong opponent of the establishment of a Palestinian state, Arens and Finance Minister Shimshon Peres.

The Spaniard's trip to Israel was only his second since Spain and Israel established diplomatic relations Jan. 17, 1986, two weeks after Spain joined the EEC.

When Spain and Israel agreed to formal diplomatic ties, Spain upgraded the Madrid PLO office to a level similar to that of a

depth, point by point, what is the position (on peace talks) of the new government of Israel," the minister said.

Spain assumed the six-month rotating presidency of the 12-nation EEC Jan. 1 and received an EEC mandate Dec. 19, along with France and Greece, to establish contacts with all sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The EEC move was aimed at bringing about an international peace conference directly involving the PLO in coordination with the United States.



Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez

diplomatic mission," as Fernandez Ordóñez described it to *theo*.

On Friday, the Spanish minister underscored that his Israel trip comes at a special moment, after moves toward moderation by the PLO, the United States' decision last month to open direct talks with the PLO, and days before PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is to visit Madrid.

Arafat's visit, only his third to Spain since 1979, is set for Jan. 26-27, when he will meet jointly with EEC-nation foreign ministers Fernandez Ordóñez, Roland Dumas of France and Karolos Papoulias of Greece.

Waldegrave reminds Israeli leaders of their terrorist past

LONDON (Agencies) — A British government minister urged Israel Saturday to recall the terrorist past of some of its leaders and accept that Palestinians could also abandon violence.

Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, returning from talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis, told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio that Israel should welcome the PLO's offers of peace.

"This year is crucial there is a window of opportunity and if we waste it we may not recover."

Waldegrave was talking to reporters after two hours with Arafat at the home of Hakim Balawi, PLO representative in Tunis. It was the first time Arafat has met a British minister.

Waldegrave and Arafat, sur-

rounded by many senior PLO figures, discussed the proposed international conference on Middle East peace and what practical steps they could take to converge it as soon as possible.

Waldegrave asked what could help bring the conference closer, replied: "For the time being, some sign of response from Israel."

Waldegrave said the continuity in the U.S. administration, with Vice-President George Bush taking over from President Ronald Reagan, would save time in formulating new U.S. policies.

Arafat repeated his invitation to Israeli leaders to come to U.N.-sponsored talks, alongside

(Continued on page 3)

Shi'ite clerics launch bid to end Amal-Hizbollah battle

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's top Shi'ite clerics met Saturday for the first time in more than two years to try to end two weeks of savage battles between rival militias.

In the devastated southern town of Jubayl, scene of house-to-house fighting between the Amal militia and Hizbollah, residents took advantage of a relative lull Saturday to flee for safety.

Fears grew of a new flare-up in Beirut's southern suburbs after a car bomb killed a woman and wounded 30 people Friday, minutes after a procession by some 4,000 Hizbollah demonstrators chanting slogans against Amal.

Hizbollah hinted Amal was behind the bomb, which missed the parade and injured other passers-by. Amal denied responsibility.

The latest round of a year-long

battle between Amal and Hizbollah — struggling for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites — started in Beirut on New Year's day and spread to the south. At least 116 have been killed and 150 wounded.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadilah, Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, and Sheikh Mohammad Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council which is generally sympathetic to Amal, met for half-an-hour but declined to answer questions afterwards.

Shi'ite sources said the meeting was their first in more than two years and could help narrow the rifts in Lebanon's biggest religious sect.

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(Continued on page 3)

Modernisation, human rights dominate non-aligned talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement attending a special conference to make their movement more effective disagreed Saturday over proposals for a more active involvement in human rights, conference sources said.

There is also disagreement over dropping the movement's long-standing procedure to reach decisions by consensus and instituting majority rule, the sources said.

The four-day conference, which opened Friday, is attended by 59 countries. Delegates include 15 foreign ministers and 11 deputy ministers.

At the foreign ministers plenary conference held in Nicosia last September, delegates complained that the organisation was bloated, churning out endless documents that nobody read and adopting resolutions that nobody followed. The conference on making the movement more effective emerged from the September session.

One of the recommendations made by a preparatory committee was that human rights should be one area which the movement should focus on in future.

Delegates to the closed-door meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suggestion was rejected by several member states, who also opposed abandoning decisions by consensus.

Reports of human rights violations among the 101 members have been invariably overlooked in previous conferences because of the consensus rule.

Singapore, one of the members pressing for the modernisation of the movement, pointed out in a paper presented to the conference that the principle of consensus prevents "dramatic change because any change would require the agreement of those who prefer the status quo."

It added that consensus "dictates that the views of one opposing member state cannot be overridden."

"Effectively this means that

one of our member states violates the principles of the U.N. charter, we are paralysed and incapable of criticising it."

The Singapore paper said "this may be the most painful dilemma of our movement... either we inflict pain on the member that has violated the U.N. charter, or we inflict pain on the movement by undermining its credibility."

A final decision on adopting new procedures will be made by the foreign ministers conference in Harare in May, which will study the result of the Nicosia conference and make final recommendations to be considered by the movement's summit conference in Belgrade in September.

Cyprus Foreign Minister George Iacovou, who presides over the Nicosia conference, said in his opening address Friday that in his contacts with over 70 foreign ministers "I sensed that there was genuine interest in revitalising the role of the Non-Aligned Movement."

PNC chief, European team hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Saturday told a European delegation that the Palestinians had accepted the principles of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. Sheikh Sayeh also expressed hope that the European countries would contribute towards achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international conference, Jordan Television said.

Sheikh Sayeh's comments came during a meeting with a delegation representing the Council of Europe at the PNC headquarters in Amman. The delegation is led by Miguel Angel Martinez, head of the Spanish group in the Council of Europe.

At Saturday's meeting, PNC Political Committee Chairman Khaled Al Hassan explained to the delegation the resolutions adopted by the PNC in Algiers in November last year and the Palestinian strategy for peace in the Middle East.

The Council of Europe delegation is on a fact-finding mission in the Middle East. It arrived here Wednesday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi held talks with the delegation, which paid a visit to Syria before returning to Amman for Saturday's meeting.

The delegation discussed regional issues with Syrian officials Thursday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

Martinez said the aim of the visit was to get acquainted with the situation in the area, SANA said.

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Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh term ended Sept. 22.

The group, representing the 23-country Council of Europe, also met with Naser Kadour, minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed "the situation in the Arab arena," SANA said.

ing, was to protest Israeli raids to collect taxes. Non-payment of taxes is a major uprising tactic.

The strike, urged in a recent leaflet by underground leaders of the revolt, called on merchants to shut their stores for seven days. The leaflet said they could still sell goods from their homes.

The Israeli "civil administration," which governs Gaza, has been building special tax offices at an army checkpoint at the entrance to the strip.

If traders have not paid taxes, their vehicles and goods are impounded until they do so. Palestinians said they were also charged a daily "parking" fee for their confiscated vehicles.

Israel has taken a variety of measures during the uprising to assert control over the Gaza residents, who are urged by underground Palestinian leaders not to cooperate with Israeli officials.

Military authorities last year ordered Gazans to renew their identity cards, change their vehicle licence plates and pay a special car registration tax.

Israeli bullets claim 2 more Palestinian girls

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinian girls injured by Israeli army gunfire died from their wounds Saturday and merchants in the occupied Gaza Strip observed a week-long strike in protest at tough Israeli tax policies.

An army spokesman said 12-year-old Hanadi Abu Sultan, of Gaza's Shati refugee camp, died in hospital, and Rana Al Masri, 15, of Nablus, died in Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital.

Both received head wounds earlier this month in separate clashes with troops. Their deaths raised to at least 363 the number of Palestinians who have died in the 13-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, shut down in an impromptu general strike to mourn Masri's death, residents said. They said former schoolmates marched through otherwise empty city streets.

"We closed stores and schools for the girl who was killed. We will give every martyr a strike

East-West accord signed; way cleared for arms talks

VIENNA (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact agreed Saturday on new East-West talks to reduce conventional forces across Europe after protracted negotiations resolved a territorial dispute between Greece and Turkey.

Negotiators from the world's two most powerful military blocs initiated a mandate for the new arms talks at a closed-door meeting, said a Western diplomat who attended.

Diplomats then prepared to seal a landmark human rights accord that was informally accepted by the East and West and 12 neutral nations.

Both accords paved the way for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to join 33 other foreign ministers next week at a three-day meeting to conclude the 35-nation Helsinki review conference.

More than two years of hard bargaining yielded from that conference. But final agreement had been uncertain because the Greek-Turkish dispute blocked accord on the arms talks mandate, which had to be included in the final Helsinki agreement.

The Greek-Turkish dispute, part of more than a week of almost continuous negotiations, was

resolved after hectic last-minute telephone calls between Vienna and the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Greece wanted to include a strategic triangle of Turkish territory close to the Syrian border in the new arms talks. The territory includes the port of Mersin, which Greece says is used to ship arms to northern Cyprus.

Turkey had agreed with the Soviet Union to exclude the territory and feared that reopening the issue would prompt Moscow to reiterate earlier demands to include the nearby U.S. air base of Incirlik in the talks.

A Western diplomat, who asked not to be further identified, said the dispute finally was resolved after the Soviet Union and three unidentifiable NATO states exchanged letters with Ankara.

Their exact content was not disclosed, but they reportedly enabled a compromise formula whereby Mersin was neither explicitly included or excluded from the new talks.

The new arms talks, dubbed the negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe (CAFE), aim to reduce troops, tanks, heavy artillery and other weapons across the continent, from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains deep inside the Soviet Union.

SINCERE APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Imperial Family and the Government and people of Japan, the Japanese Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan wishes to express his sincere appreciation to

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Soviets reassure Kabul of support

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze has promised Afghanistan's beleaguered government that the Kremlin will continue to provide "all-around assistance," TASS said Saturday.

The Soviet news agency's report on talks between Shevardnadze and Afghan President Najibullah appeared to indicate that Afghanistan will continue receiving military aid from the Soviets even after all Soviet troops leave the country.

Shevardnadze flew to Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, Friday as Soviet officials continued to work for a political solution permitting them to withdraw their remaining 50,000 soldiers by Feb. 15.

Soviet diplomats have hinted the troops may not be completely out of Afghanistan by the mid-February deadline. That date was set by U.N.-brokered negotiations in Geneva in April 1988, and the Kremlin publicly committed itself to observing it.

Western diplomats, however,

say that the departure of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which was halted last fall, has now resumed.

On Friday, 500 Soviet soldiers laden with equipment were seen lined up before transport planes at Kabul airport, waiting to fly home.

The Soviets have been seeking to involve members of the rebel factions fighting Najibullah's government in peace talks with government representatives. Mujahedeen officials have said the Soviets are only trying to secure a place for Afghan Marxists in a new Afghan government.

Shevardnadze renewed the call for peace talks during his discussions with Najibullah, but also clearly aligned himself with the Afghan government, the TASS report indicated.

"The Soviet side confirmed its intention to continue playing an intermediary role in launching a general dialogue in Afghanistan," TASS said.

But it added: "The Soviet side confirmed its full support for the Afghan leadership's policies, and said the Soviet Union will continue extending the Republic of Afghanistan all-round assistance under treaties and agreements concluded by the two countries."

Since the Soviets committed themselves to an Afghan withdrawal, they have transferred millions of roubles' worth of armaments and military supplies to their Afghan allies, Western sources say.

The Afghan government and the Soviets blame the guerrillas, who have received U.S. assistance, for the continuing hostilities, saying they have refused to join in the ceasefire proclaimed by Najibullah Jan. 1.

TASS said both Shevardnadze and Najibullah backed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals on Afghanistan issued

last month at the United Nations — declaration of a ceasefire by Jan. 1 and the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force pending formation of a broad-based government.

TASS said Moscow intended to continue acting as an intermediary in launching a general dialogue in Afghanistan."

Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, held talks with rebels in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan before their leaders announced there would be no more negotiations until all Soviet troops left the country.

Pullout 'speeded up'

British television reported Friday that Soviet troops had secretly stepped up their withdrawal from Afghanistan and will complete the pull-out by the end of the month, more than two weeks ahead of schedule.

Channel Four television news said Moscow was carrying out a fast, low-profile operation to pull out its remaining troops well

ahead of the Feb. 15 deadline. Reporting from Kabul, Channel Four quoted informed sources as saying no more than 100 Soviet diplomats and advisers would remain after the withdrawal to support the Afghan government.

Rebel talks in Iran

Afghan rebels based in Pakistan have arrived in Tehran to discuss their country's future with Iran-based colleagues, Iran's IRNA news agency said Saturday.

Leaders of seven-party Mujahedeen rebel group arrived Friday from Peshawar in Pakistan for a seminar on strategic, cultural, economic and international aspects of the Afghan crisis, said IRNA.

Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi also arrived Friday for the two-day seminar opening Sunday, which will be attended by experts from France, Britain, Bangladesh and other countries, IRNA said.



EMBATTLED CITY — A view of Beirut from the eastern half of the Lebanese capital. The shell-ravaged buildings bear mute witness to the years of civil war in the country.

Hoss, Aoun invited to talks under Arab League umbrella

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The 22-member Arab League has invited the leaders of Lebanon's rival civilian and military governments for talks on preventing a formal partition of the war-tattered country, two daily newspapers reported Saturday.

The Al Nahar and Al Safir newspapers said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah made the offer at head an Arab League committee seeking to resolve Lebanon's almost four-month-old political crisis.

The newspapers said that acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, his rival Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Hussein Huseini were invited to attend an Arab League session at its headquarters in Tunis.

The newspapers gave no date for the meeting, and press spokesmen for the three Lebanese leaders refused to comment on the reports.

The Arab League committee, formed in Tunis Thursday, also includes the foreign ministers of Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates along with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi.

Lebanon has been without a president since Sept. 22, when parliament failed to elect a successor.

The newspapers said that

Muslims and leftists rejected the nomination and pledged alliance to the Hoss cabinet which governed under Gemayel.

Since then a power struggle between Hoss and Aoun has split parliament, the police and army along sectarian lines.

Syrian call

Arabs' intent on saving Lebanon should start by driving Israeli forces out and eliminating their allies, Syria's semi-official Al Thawra newspaper said Saturday.

The Arab role needed to save Lebanon from its crisis should start by freeing South Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and demolishing its supporters, Al Thawra said in an editorial.

U.N. procedural shift towards Palestine mission may set trend

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's agreement to receive direct requests from the Palestine mission to participate in debates may set a trend for other observer missions here, an authority on U.N. practice said Friday.

Non-members North Korea, South Korea and Switzerland, for example, may reasonably expect similar treatment, he said.

And the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) as well as other, non-governmental groups like the African National Congress may also seek the symbolic enhancement of status.

"The council would have to 'confab,' but it would be difficult to deny them," the source said.

Council members voted Wednesday to allow the Palestine

mission, formerly of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to address their president directly.

Long-standing practice in the 15-nation body required any non-member of the United Nations, including non-governmental organisations, to go through a council member with a request to take part in its work, without voting rights.

The United States cast the only negative vote. Britain, France and Capadocia abstained.

The source speculated that the Palestinians' next step might be to seek to address informational material, on such issues as the West Bank, without having to go through a third party.

After the council vote broke new ground the Palestinian representative, Nasser Al Kidwa, was simply a courtesy.

claimed an important victory.

During private consultations, the United States was said to have rejected a compromise proposal that the Palestine mission be allowed to make a direct request to the council president only in conjunction with a supporting document from a member state.

The source, who did not want to be quoted by name, stressed that the council action did not imply recognition of a state of Palestine. Nonetheless, it must be seen as part of a "huge shift in attitudes," he said.

"Another little bit has fallen into place," the source said.

In explaining Britain's abstention vote, British Ambassador Crispin Tickell referred to Palestine, but British sources said this was simply a courtesy.

Financial assistance to uprising continues despite Israeli curbs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foiled Israeli efforts to limit funding of the Palestinian uprising by using Israeli-Arab businessmen, international organisations and ultra-orthodox Jews to transfer money, according to an Israeli newspaper report.

The independent newspaper Ma'ariv and Palestinian journalists said the closing of Arab banks and limits put on money Palestinians can bring into Israel have not halted PLO funding of the 13-month revolt.

"Rarely is cash carried across the bridge into the West Bank," said one journalist, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The money is sent through checks and the real problem is cashing checks."

Arab-Israeli businessmen with overseas contacts and ultra-orthodox Jews have been instrumental in providing the PLO

with middlemen, Ma'ariv reported.

The paper said a fringe group of ultra-orthodox Jews, who believe the state of Israel cannot exist until the coming of the messiah, transfer money to Palestinian activists, but demand a 25 per cent fee for religious seminaries.

"There is a very active black market in Mea Shearim," an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighbourhood, the Arab journalist said. "They aid in cashing the checks, but I don't think they transfer cash."

Ma'ariv reported that Arab public figures from northern Israel and Israeli-Arab businessmen belonging to the Islamic opposition movement have pumped millions of dollars into the uprising by laundering money through legitimate businesses.

The funds are used to subsidise Arab newspapers, compensate Palestinians wounded in clashes

and pay uprising leaders, the paper said.

Arab reports said the PLO has the following levels of compensation for Arabs facing Israeli troops: \$1,400-\$2,000 to the family of someone killed in the uprising; \$400-\$600 to the wounded; \$100 per month for a detainee; with \$20 added if the prisoner is married; and \$6,000-\$10,000 to Arabs whose homes are demolished.

Israeli officials estimate that \$60 million were transferred into the occupied territories in 1988.

Ma'ariv said the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser for occupied territories, Akram Haniyeh, as saying that in 1988 the PLO pumped more money into the occupied territories than it has during the entire 20 year occupation.

The paper quoted PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser for occupied territories, Akram Haniyeh, as saying that in 1988 the PLO pumped more money into the occupied territories than it has during the entire 20 year occupation.

He refused to give specific figures but said the figure "far exceeds" \$60 million.

Libya offers talks with Britain

Israeli police arrest Red Sea paddler

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police Saturday arrested a Swede who paddled a kayak from Aqaba to Eilat. Police said the man had offered no explanation for crossing the border but had apparently been swept into Israeli waters by high seas. They said they were still questioning the man, aged about 30, and had not decided what to do with him.

Iran braces for locust battle

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has formed a task force to combat an expected invasion of crop-devouring locusts from Central Africa, the Islamic Republic News Agency said Saturday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a task force official in southeastern Bushehr province as saying: "We predict that from about mid-January to mid-March, the locusts will swarm over our southern border areas." The official said a few, mostly young, locusts were spotted in the past two days but that the problem was not yet serious, IRNA said. The agency quoted the official as saying there was no need to start spraying insecticides for the moment but that locust-spraying planes were on alert in southwestern Shiraz province.

Cairo appeals ban on Falcon Crest

CAIRO (AP) — A court overstepped its jurisdiction in finding the American television series Falcon Crest too degenerate for Egyptian screens, the government says in an appeal. Anyway, the state's lawyer said Saturday, the plaintiff should have switched off his set if the programme offended him. "We expect to win," said Ragaa Ahmad Issa, head of the technical department at the state litigation authority. "We expect the (appeal) court to rule that the ban order was outside the jurisdiction of the court." He said the appeal filed this month also alleges other procedural errors and the substantive claim that the provincial judge who banned the series should not have accepted at face value the plaintiff's word that the series is offensive. The banning order emanated last month from a court in the Nile Delta town of Shubin Al Kom in a case brought against the state-owned television and radio authority by a private citizen, lawyer Mustafa Hamed Al Khalifa.

'Passports for sale' diplomat loses appeal

DUBLIN (R) — A former Irish embassy official at the centre of "passports for sale to the Middle East" allegations lost a high court appeal Friday against extradition to Britain. But Kevin McDonald is unlikely to be returned immediately to London to face trial as his

lawyer now intends taking the case to Ireland's supreme court. A British newspaper alleged in 1987 that McDonald, 39, was selling passports to Middle East "clients" from the Irish embassy in London. He was accused in extradition warrants of conspiring to obtain Irish passports by deception. The Dublin government has waived his diplomatic immunity.

Sudanese MPs to quit Islamic party

KHARTOUM (R) — Three members of Sudan's parliament are to quit the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF) and join the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the news agency SUNA reported Friday. It did not say why they were leaving the NIF, a partner in the ruling coalition. But newspapers have quoted them as saying they support a peace accord signed between the DUP and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army in November in Addis Ababa. The NIF described the agreement as a sellout. The DUP pulled out of the coalition Dec. 28 after parliament failed to endorse the accord, aimed at ending five years of civil war in south Sudan.

Tunisian Islamic leader sees danger

TUNIS (R) — A leader of Tunisia's militant Islamic movement said in an interview published Friday that some of its members could be driven to extremism if it was excluded from public life. Sheikh Abdul Fattah Mourou, secretary-general of the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), told the weekly magazine Le Maghreb: "If various political groups are allowed to take part (in public life) with the exception of the Islamic movement, that would be a major reason for extremism." Mourou, who returned in September after more than two years in exile, was appointed Monday to Tunisia's Supreme Islamic Council, a government body which advises on religious affairs. He interpreted his appointment as a first step towards normalising the status of the MTI, which was persecuted under former President Habib Bourguiba and is not recognised as a legitimate political party.

French group seeks \$3.2b Libyan job

PARIS (R) — A French construction group has said it was competing with South Korean and Indian firms for a Libyan project to build a water pipeline which Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi calls the "Great man-made river." The value of the contract for the 800-kilometre line is estimated at around \$3.2 billion. Qaddafi has elevated the project into a national priority. It aims to pipe water from vast natural underground reservoirs deep in the Sahara desert to densely populated coastal areas where water sources have been severely depleted.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 — *Programme review*

15:45 — *Children's programme*

17:15 — *Football match*

18:00 — *News summary in Arabic*

18:05 — *Local programme*

18:25 — *Local programme*

18:45 — *Programme review*

20:00 — *Arabic series*

21:30 — *Programme review*

21:45 — *Local programme*

22:30 — *Variety programme*

23:00 — *News summary in Arabic*

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — *La Baby Sister*

18:30 — *L'Ecole des Fous*

19:00 — *News in French*

19:15 — *A documentary*

19:30 — *News in Hebrew*

19:45 — *Varieties programme*

20:00 — *News in Arabic*

20:30 — *Perfect Strangers*

21:10 — *Documentary: The Last Road*

22:30 — *The Equaliser*

PRAYER TIMES

06:32 — *Fajr*

06:32 — *(Sunrise) Dhuhr*

11:45 — *Dhuhr*

14:24 — *'Asr*

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Ajlouni receives honorary certificate

ROME (Petra) — The Rome-based Academy for Tourism in European, African and Asian countries has awarded former Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni an honorary certificate in recognition of his valuable contributions to promote tourism in Jordan.

The award was received in Rome on Ajlouni's behalf by Jordan's ambassador to Italy at a ceremony held on the occasion.

The academy strives to promote the tourism industry and develop coordination among various tourist organisations worldwide.

Academy members include



Zuhair Ajlouni

prominent international personalities and its certificates are awarded to key figures in the tourism industry. Ajlouni became minister of state for cabinet affairs in the recent government reshuffle.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

DAJANI RECEIVES UAE ENVOY: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Saturday received United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Jassem Ali. Discussions dealt with aspects of the existing cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

HAJ HASSAN MEETS QATARI ENVOY: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan Saturday received new Qatari Ambassador in Amman Mubarak Naser Al Kuwari. They discussed bilateral relations and means to bolster them particularly in the field of transport and telecommunications. (Petra)

PAKISTANI DELEGATION ENDS VISIT: A delegation representing the Income Tax Department in Pakistan left Amman following a four-day visit here. Its members held talks with government officials and signed an agreement designed to avoid dual taxation procedures between the two countries' national airlines.

CIVIL DEFENCE IN AJLOUN: The Civil Defence Committee in the Ajloun district Saturday held a meeting to review arrangements to deal with any emergency as a result of rain and snow in the current winter season. The meeting, attended by civil defence officials and representatives of local councils, decided to set up an operations room and take precautionary measures, such as cleaning culverts, to avoid flooding of streets and homes. The committee issued an appeal to residents of low lying areas to move to safer ground or take extra precautions to avoid danger. Ajloun is a northern mountainous area where normally the greatest amount of rain and snow falls.

EXHIBITION IN MAFRAQ: A two-day exhibition of energy-related equipment was opened in Mafraq's energy and electricity information advisory centre. On display also are sets of instructions and guidebooks for the public on measures to save energy.

SEMINAR ON INFORMATION: Dr. Rihbi Mustafa Alayyan will represent University of Jordan at the five-day second Arab seminar on information, scheduled to be held in Tunisia on Jan. 17. Alayyan will present a working paper on the transfer of information to the Arab countries and the Jordanian experience in this regard. The seminar will discuss working papers on information and the Arab countries' experience in this regard. (Petra)

WORKSHOP HELD AT NHF: A workshop was held at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday on improvement of social life and dissemination of social ideas. Present were the directors of the project and programmes which NHF executes. (Petra)

PROJECTS IN ZARQA: The Water and Sewage Authority in Zarqa Governorate has finished the first and second stages of water and sewage projects in Zarqa and Ruseifat at the cost of JD 12,485 million. Sources said that replacement and improvement of water networks are underway in Zarqa. Meanwhile, Zarqa Governor Id Al Qatameh Saturday toured a number of Zarqa quarters, and inspected various ongoing projects. (Petra)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFICIENCY: Fifteen directors and officials from financial and industrial institutions in Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and North Yemen are taking part in a seminar held at the Jordan Administrative Institute on developing administrative proficiency. The seven-day seminar is designed to explain the administrative process, to highlight the importance of relationships in administration, and to point out the importance of time. The seminar includes delivering lectures in various fields related to administration. (Petra)

TAWJIHI EXAM MARKING: Education Ministry sources have reported that the correction committees will finish correcting the Tawjiji examination papers for all sections in a few days. According to Sawt Al Shaab, calculations and storage of the results of the first semester in computers will take place next month. Over 58,000 students sat for the examination which ended on Jan. 11.

ABDUL JABER GETS U.N. POST: The U.N. Secretary General has decided to appoint former Minister of Labour Dr. Taysir Abdul Jaber to the post of executive secretary general of the Bagdad-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Abdul Jaber will leave Amman for New York Sunday to attend the meetings of senior U.N. officials which will be held early next week. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- The Iraqi Cultural Week includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madani and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabi' and Nidal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- Yugoslav graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of energy conservation equipment at Al Mafraq Industrial School.

BAZAAR

- A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroidery, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Al'a'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

CONCERT

- A recital by the Italian accordionist Gervasio Marcossignori at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- Two documentaries on the life and work of Martin Luther King at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- A lecture by Amideast supervisors on "What to consider when applying for admission to a U.S. university" at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan to mark Arbor Day today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day ceremonies will be held in Jordan Sunday, and the main event will be organised at the grounds of the new Radio Jordan Transmission Station at Kharraneh some 70 kilometres east of Amman.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, which organises Arbor Day ceremonies, said that at least 500 dunums of land in the Kharraneh region will be planted with tree saplings on the occasion.

The spokesman, Tayseer Shabat, said that other ceremonies

will be held at Muwaqqar, south east of here, Naour and Wadi Seer, west of Amman, as well as at schools and around public organisations.

Shabat said that at least 120 dunums of land will be planted with trees in the current season.

Director of the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Ghaleb Abu Arabi said that Jordan's 13 nurseries together produce some nine million tree saplings annually, half of which used by government agencies and the rest is

distributed to organisations and individuals free of charge.

Jordan's forest regions are limited and the total area covered with forest trees is estimated at 685,000 dunums, less than eight per cent of the total area of the Kingdom, Abu Arabi said.

His Majesty King Hussein attended Arbor Day celebrations at Abu Nuseir in January 1988 where he inaugurated a public garden set up by the Greater Amman Municipality and took part in tree planting along with the local residents.

Health Ministry to refer patients to different Jordanian hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health will, from now on, refer patients to hospitals located in different parts of the country including Jordan University Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre, instead of the private hospitals, according to Health Ministry officials

or outside Amman and there will be no problem in this process. Only government employees and their families enjoyed the privilege of being referred to the private hospitals whenever there was congestion at the government hospitals, under the 1987 agreement, with special arrangements for pay for such services, according to the officials.

They were commenting on a news report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday which said that the minister of health has terminated an agreement with the private hospitals to provide treatment to the employees.

The Health Ministry had in 1987 concluded an agreement with a number of private hospitals in Amman to admit patients for whom there are no beds or facilities at the time when they need treatment in the government hospitals.

The officials noted that the NMI can absorb all patients and distribute them to hospitals inside

and outside Amman and there will be no problem in this process. Only government employees and their families enjoyed the privilege of being referred to the private hospitals whenever there was congestion at the government hospitals, under the 1987 agreement, with special arrangements for pay for such services, according to the officials.

But a detailed study on the cost of operating government hospitals as conducted by (NMI), revealed that JD 80 million will be needed for such services.

The publication of the study, which coincided with the takeover by NMI of hospitals in May 1988, said that the existing hospitals will be developed in two stages and small-size hospitals will be established in a number of regions.

When the NMI was created, its Director General Daoud Hanania, announced that the institution will retain its financial and administrative independence and it will maintain close coordination with the Health Ministry, medical schools and the private sector.

The NMI, Hanania added, will focus its attention on improving hospital management and providing integrated services to the public in emergencies, natural disasters and wars.

Hanania also said that the NMI will supervise health security schemes, now adopted by the Health Ministry and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, and will later look into the prospect of unifying them into one system.

Committee completes review of current school curricula

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A specialised committee from the Ministry of Education has completed an overall review of the current school curricula in all subjects in implementation of resolutions taken by the first national educational conference held here in 1987, according to the Ministry's Secretary General Munther Al Masri.

The committee has compiled new curricula for the schools which will be submitted to the Higher Education Council by the end of January, Masri said at a press conference held Saturday.

He said that once the council has approved the new curricula, new textbooks will be prepared for the students at all the school stages and the whole process will be completed in five years from now.

Masri referred to the training and certification of teachers to practice their profession and said that the ministry was working on a long-term plan to provide prop-

er qualifications to Jordanian teachers.

Teachers should have a university degree in order to practice teaching at schools and they should enjoy good character and strong personalities, Masri noted.

Masri said to provide qualification to teachers, the ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Jordanian universities, has now set up an advanced teachers training college in Amman. The college will bear the costs of the students.

He said the ministry intends to open similar colleges in Irbid and

Karabah probably during the next school year.

Referring to rented buildings, which now serve as schools, Masri said new buildings are needed to end the present two shift system, which is introduced because of lack of sufficient space, and to give better facilities and atmosphere for the students.

The ministry was continuing the process of building schools in the rural regions in cooperation with local municipal councils and private organisations, to meet the growing student population which now runs at the rate of 30,000 annually.

He said the ministry needs to set up at least 40 new schools each year to cope with the increase in the number of students.

In May last year, the minister of education said 176 schools will be set up at different regions of which 21 were being built in the Amman region.

Seminar on infectious diseases opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day training seminar on investigations into infectious diseases was opened at the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Department Saturday by Minister of Health Zubair Malbas.

Participants in the seminar are doctors and specialists employed by the ministry at the primary

health centres in different governorates.

The seminar, organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the University of Jordan, aims at updating the doctors' knowledge

to promote their efficiency and skill in monitoring and controlling the spread of infectious diseases in the country.

JVA to replace open water works with pressurised pipeline system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is currently changing all open water works in the Jordan Valley into pressurised system, with water running in pipes, to reach its destination in the fields with a minimum loss because of evaporation, JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said in an interview published Saturday.

He said the present open network was installed nearly 25 years ago and has become obsolete in view of the loss of precious water needed for irrigation.

By the end of 1994 the whole system will be changed and at least 132,000 dunums of land will be receiving irrigation through the new system, Bani Hani said in the interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily.

In its drive to provide additional amounts of water for the Jordan Valley fields, the JVA is going ahead with plans to construct dams that hold back rain water which is collected in reservoirs that supply the water to the fields, Bani Hani noted.

He said the existing dams now have nearly 80 million cubic metres of rain water stored and more is expected to be stored this winter.

The JVA plans to build Al Wahdah Dam, which will have a total storage capacity of 230 million cubic metres of water, and Al

Karamah Dam in the Jordan Valley to store up to 55 million cubic metres before 1995, Bani Hani said.

He referred to Al Wahdah Dam by saying that a meeting will be held by financiers of the project by the end of the coming month to review the plans and to agree on a general unified plan for construction.

The meeting will be a follow-up to that which was held last October when representatives of 13 government and public financial organisations discussed the project and expressed readiness to provide funds for the construction of the dam, Bani Hani said.

He said special interest in the project was demonstrated by the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Drinking water in 1973 reached 10 per cent of the population where as now it reaches 100 per cent, while electric power which also was supplied to 10 per cent of the Jordan Valley inhabitants now reaches up to 90 per cent, Bani Hani added.

In the interview, Bani Hani also dwelt on projects designed to organise tourism, especially in the winter season, and the current efforts to rid the area of waste and manure where insects breed.

He said the soil in the Jordan

Advanced course opens for PSD officers

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday opened an advanced training course for police officers at its training ground in Kafran near South Shuneh. A total of 300 officers, who are taking part in the course, heard a speech by Lt.-Col. Salman Al Ma'aitah,

commander of the PSD corp, in which he outlined the stages of training for the officers. He said the officers will acquire various field skills, the use of different types of weapons, physical exercises, mountain climbing and hand to hand fighting in the course of their training.

Iraq-Jordan transport firm begins expansion talks today

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The board of directors of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (JLTC) will open a meeting here Sunday under the co-chairmanship of ministers of transport and telecommunications in the two countries.

The Jordanian side to the meeting, which arrived in Baghdad Saturday, included the Minister of Transport's Secretary General Mahmoud Al Talbouni, director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Eid Al Fayed, and Deputy Director of JLTC Suleiman Al Hababeh.

Sunday's board meeting will pave the way for Monday's general assembly meeting which will discuss the company's plans for the

1989 and will review achievements in the past year.

JLTC Director General Jamil Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting will also chart plans for expansion programmes and the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan on the one hand, and between the two countries and the rest of the Arab World on the other.

Ibrahim said the general assembly will look into the prospect of modernising the company's fleet over the coming few years, opening new offices for the company outside Jordan and Iraq, especially in Kuwait, Turkey and Singapore.

The development and modernisation of the company's Aqaba workshops to cope with the growing volume of work and the increasing fleet of trucks, as well as an estimated budget for the new year will also be discussed at the coming meeting, Ibrahim noted.

He said last year the company made a JD 2 million in net profit and that the company's 900-truck fleet transported 808,000 tonnes of Iraqi goods from Aqaba to Iraq in the first eight months of 1988 alone.

In the past year, 40 of the company's trucks were assigned to help transport Jordanian phosphate from Al Hassa and Al Abiad mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba for export.

At the start of the meeting the British minister told Ibrahim it was a historic occasion.

He then picked up an embroidered Palestinian cushion and said: "I won't be happy till I can walk down the street and buy things like this, Palestinian things, in a place you call your own."

"There's a small shop in London..." one of Ibrahim's aides said.

"No, we want to buy them in a place you think is your own," Ibrahim interjected.

Waldegrave reminds

(Continued from page 1)

the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the PLO and the Arab countries.

Asked if Britain was inviting Ibrahim to visit London, Waldegrave said: "Certainly if such a visit would take forward practical steps... there's no problem in principle."

At the start of the meeting the British minister told Ibrahim it was a historic occasion.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن دار الصحافة الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

For Shamir's pleasure

WHEN Arabs used to shun Israelis and refuse as much as look them in the eye for fear of being labelled as traitors, the Israeli officialdom was first to jump on such occasions and describe Arabs with all sorts of political and psychological adjectives that tended to demean the Arab sense of chivalry and common sense.

And when the Palestinian Arabs including the PLO officialdom have started to erase all complexities and anxieties regarding communications with the enemy as illustrated by the ongoing Paris debate on Middle East peace, the Israeli government of all parties was the first to forbid under the penalty of the law the participating Israeli members of the Knesset to even sit side-by-side with PLO officials. Whatever happened to the Israeli logic that the Arab side was bombarded with for decades stipulating that only direct contacts and open dialogue and communication would assure a speedy resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict? It is indeed a calamity if this cycle of refusing to engage one's enemies in as much as a dialogue under international aegis continues unabated to shift from one side of the Arab-Israeli equation into the other.

The Paris forum on Middle East peace could have served as a testing ground for direct Israeli-PLO communication, which in turn could have served as a stepping stone into the projected international peace conference on the Middle East under the aegis of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. But alas, instead of achieving this important objective, the Israeli Knesset members were forced to bow to a 1986 Israeli law which bars meetings with members of the PLO and avoided all semblances of direct contact with the Palestinian delegation attending the Paris meeting. Israeli leaders can sigh with relief that not even a handshake or eye contact between the Israeli Knesset members and the PLO members had occurred. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir can sleep with comfort now that a whole empty seat separated the Israelis from the Palestinians. That empty seat has been filled with the current Israeli illogical perspective. Shamir will be pleased to know.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Saturday launched a strong criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for his stubbornness with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The paper said that Shamir's call on the United States not to pursue the dialogue with the PLO is an evil one aimed at preventing any constructive step towards the establishment of peace. Shamir's latest statements in which he showed total disregard to the projected international conference will not bring about any change in the international community's support for the Palestinians and their just cause, the paper noted. It said that Israel can never escape from the mounting pressure against it from various nations and unless it accepts the idea of the international conference and gives up its intransigence, it will find itself totally discarded by the community of nations. Shamir has been warned by the European parliamentarians visiting the Middle East and by European statesmen that a real change in Israel's policy must come about in order that Israel can live in security and peace, the paper added. It concluded by saying that the international community is now more convinced than at any time in the past that Israel's intransigence remains the stumbling block in the path of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Saturday on the situation in the Middle East region and the international conference. Ibrahim Sakkijha says that the projected conference is now being demanded by all nations as they see in it a forum where the conflicting parties can meet and be helped by other states to achieve peace. Israel remains the only country opposing the idea of this conference and the U.S. remains the only other power that backs Israel's views in this regard, the writer says. Ever since the occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, and the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 242, the world community has been demanding Israel to abide by the international legitimacy and calling on it to implement the resolution to arrive at peace with its neighbours, Sakkijha adds. Since the resolution was passed in 1967 the Middle East has witnessed numerous developments and the Europeans and the Americans have offered several initiatives, the writer points out. But he says that the current overwhelming support for the conference idea and the implementation of resolution 242 reflects the fact that this resolution remains the most feasible way out of the deadlock and one that can indeed lead to peace.

Al Dostour daily commented Saturday on the British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's statements in which he urged Israel to take a constructive step in response to the Palestinian bid for peace. The paper said that Howe's statement, which came on the eve of a high level meeting between Britain and the PLO, demonstrates the new constructive orientation by the British government to help find a lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is no doubt that such favourable development is a source of welcome and delight for the Arab countries which had been urging the Europeans to take a serious step to bring about a settlement in the Middle East, the paper noted.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Realistic budget if adhered to

THE new budget for the year 1989 could not be understood and properly evaluated by simple mathematical comparison with the figures of the past year unless we take into account that the domestic purchasing power of the Jordanian dinar in 1989 will be around 20 per cent below that of 1988, and that the prices of foreign currencies will be 40 per cent higher.

With this in mind, we can judge the overall size of the new budget, in comparison with the previous year budget, at only 1 per cent lower in nominal terms, which is a minor reduction, but 20 per cent lower in real purchasing power, which is a substantial cut

Current and recurring expenditures were 4.2 per cent higher in absolute figures, but 15 per cent lower in real terms. This major cut in current expenses is possible as long as the major part of this section of the budget is comprised of salaries, wages, interest, and rents which remained constant.

Domestic revenues, on the other hand, were estimated to be up by 1 per cent, quite a moderate growth if taken in nominal value, but when the depreciation of the dinar is taken into account, it can be easily concluded that this estimation was extremely conservative. We have every reason to speculate that the actual domestic revenues will exceed the budget estimates by 10 per cent.

Even customs duties on imports were estimated to be 12.5 per cent less than what was actually realised in 1988. One of course appreciates that the volume of foreign imports will decline in 1989, not only because certain commodities were banned, which used to form 7 to 10 per cent in value of all commodity imports, but also because the higher price of foreign exchange and the scarcity of foreign currencies should naturally cause imports to drop. However, I don't expect imports to decline by more than 30 per cent under the impact of those two factors combined.

Since customs duties form a percentage of the cost of imports as calculated in current prices, the remaining 70 per cent of the imports will be more than sufficient to yield the same revenue of last year in nominal terms. I expect the proceeds of imports duty in dinars to rise rather than fall compared to the figure achieved last year.

Readers of the budget also noted that Arab and foreign aid was estimated to be around 40 per cent above the level of 1988. This assumed improvement took observers by surprise. They wonder why the government should expect more Arab aid despite the fact that the 10-year commitment of Baghdad summit has

expired by the end of 1988. In fact the Arab and foreign aid was estimated at the same low level of 1988, only lower exchange rate of the dinar would make the same amount in dollars yield 40 per cent more in dinar terms when the Central Bank will buy the aid dollars from the treasury.

The other side of this fact is that debt service in interest and installments will cost more, not only because new obligations are becoming due for repayment, but also because the cost of servicing foreign debts should cost 40 per cent more in terms of local currency.

In general, I can safely say that the revenue side of the budget

was not in any way overstated as used to be the case in the past just to show a lower deficit. The contrary is true, and the revenues, especially domestic revenues, were on the low side. If the government adhered strictly to the allocations for current and capital expenditure as the minister of finance solemnly avowed, I think that the final deficit will be much less than the budget allowed. I hasten to add my belief that the government will adhere this year to the limits specified in the budget, and will not exceed the allocations. Any excess, after the crisis of 1988, will be an act of financial imprudence that no responsible government will commit.

ban in the United States.

"We feel the EC action is a justified response to consumer concerns," said Dan Howell of the Centre for Science in the Public Interest. "But we're not advocates of a ban in the United States."

Gustafson said U.S. speciality producers were unable to provide the volume of hormone-free meat needed to fill the shortfall in U.S. exports to the EC, and their products cost 25 cents a pound more than competing meats offered by other countries.

He also disputed claims that U.S. sales of hormone-free beef will soon due to health concerns. "People don't want to go into a supermarket and pay \$7.10 for a steak," he said.

Two of the best known U.S. consumer groups support the EC ban and are expected soon to sign a declaration issued by a European group advocating the ban.

But both American organisations stop short of calling for a

ban in the United States.

"The science is still out on the issue."

Haas said there is little need for a U.S. ban on the use of hormones because the U.S. regulatory system is more rigorous than the EC's.

Howell said more information was needed to support a call for a ban in the United States.

Haas and Howell agreed there was little chance that Congress or U.S. regulatory agencies would move to tighten restrictions on use of the hormones.

Concern about hormones stirs U.S. demand for 'natural' meat

By Nelson Graves
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer advocates and specialty meat producers say concern about growth hormones is stimulating consumer demand for meat from animals raised without these substances.

On January 1 the European Community (EC) closed its doors to imports of meat from animals that had been given growth hormones, widely used on U.S. cattle ranches. Community officials said they were responding to consumer concerns about dangers associated with eating meat containing hormones.

The U.S. government, which maintains the hormones pose no risk when used appropriately, hit back by effectively blocking imports of seven types of EC foodstuffs, valued at \$100 million a year.

Publicity surrounding the U.S.-

EC trade row appears to have boosted U.S. sales of hormone-free meat products.

Mel Coleman, president of Coleman Natural Beef Inc of Denver, said sales of his "natural" beef, which totalled \$20 million in 1988, have risen 20 per cent since January 1. "The consumer interest has increased dramatically," he said.

Coleman sold 19,000 head of cattle last year, all hormone- and chemical-free. Major supermarket chains in at least four states, including over 150 stores in New York and Massachusetts, carry his meat, as do health food stores in 25 states. Coleman expects to double sales by June 1990.

Ray Field, a meat scientist at the University of Wyoming, said a marketing study he conducted in 1986 and 1987 showed "a significant proportion of people buying beef are interested in buying beef that's lean and stimulant-free."

The study, ordered by the Wyoming state legislature, involved observing how consumers in San Francisco reacted when given a choice between "typical supermarket beef" and a leaner brand advertised as "low-fat and natural" from Wyoming cattle fed no hormones or antibiotics. Field said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

When the two sorts of meat were offered at the same price, two of every three shoppers picked the leaner beef, Field said. Even when the Wyoming brand was priced 25 per cent higher, a quarter of the consumers bought the leaner brand.

"Whether hormones are harmful or not, the fact remains that a number of people are interested in buying stimulant-free beef," he said.

Berwent Renshaw, EC agri-

cultural counsellor here, said he has received over a dozen inquiries from U.S. producers and states interested in selling hormone-free beef to Europe and asking under what circumstances the EC would allow the beef.

Karen Coble, spokesman for the national Pork Producers Council, said the EC has agreed to admit until May shipments of U.S. pork and horsemeat produced without hormones. A team of EC officials is expected to arrive later this year to establish that no hormones are used in the production of those meats.

The food safety and inspection system of the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) has balked at implementing a system for certifying that beef carcasses come from animals that were never given hormones.

Such a system would require monitoring animals through their entire growth cycle and would prove extremely costly. USDA

officials said.

In addition, a decision to provide such certification would undermine U.S. efforts to persuade the EC to reverse the ban, Mark Gustafson of the U.S. meat export federation said.

Gustafson said U.S. speciality producers were unable to provide the volume of hormone-free meat needed to fill the shortfall in U.S. exports to the EC, and their products cost 25 cents a pound more than competing meats offered by other countries.

He also disputed claims that U.S. sales of hormone-free beef will soon due to health concerns. "People don't want to go into a supermarket and pay \$7.10 for a steak," he said.

Two of the best known U.S. consumer groups support the EC ban and are expected soon to sign a declaration issued by a European group advocating the ban.

But both American organisations stop short of calling for a

Paris conference pledges to ban chemical weapons

PARIS — Delegates to the Paris Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have condemned the use of chemical arms and affirmed their commitment not to use such arms.

The final declaration of the Paris talks, released January 11, also stressed the necessity of concluding, "at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction."

Following is the text of the final declaration of the Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which was adopted by consensus in Paris January 11:

The representatives of states participating in the Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, bringing together states parties to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other interested states in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, solemnly declare the following:

1. The participating states are determined to promote international peace and security throughout the world in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to pursue effective disarmament measures. In this context, they are determined to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them. They solemnly affirm their commitments not to use chemical weapons and condemn such use. They recall their serious concern at recent violations as established and condemned by the competent organs of the United Nations. They support the humanitarian assistance given to the victims affected by chemical weapons.

4. The participating states are gravely concerned by the growing danger posed to international peace and security by the risk of the use of chemical weapons as long as such weapons remain and are spread. In this context, they

stress the need for the early conclusion and entry into force of the convention, which will be established on a non-discriminatory basis. They deem it necessary, in the meantime, for each state to exercise restraint and to act responsibly in accordance with the purpose of the present declaration.

5. The participating states confirm their full support for the United Nations in the discharge of its indispensable role, in conformity with its Charter. They affirm that the United Nations provides a framework and an instrument enabling the international community to exercise vigilance with respect to the prohibition of chemical weapons. They confirm their support for the United Nations in this respect in conformity with the Geneva Protocol. They express their wish for early completion of the work undertaken to strengthen the efficiency of existing procedures and call for the cooperation of all states, in order to facilitate the action of the secretary general.

6. The participating states, recalling the Final Document of the first Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in 1978, underline the need to pursue with determination their efforts to secure general and complete disarmament under effective international control, so as to ensure the right of all states to peace and security.

7. The participating states are expected to participate in general elections to be held in 1991 for 10 of 56 seats on the council — primarily a forum to debate policy made by

the governor and his advisers. The council now consists of government officials, government appointees and representatives of interest groups and local advisory boards.

The 1991 elections "will be run on party lines, I'm quite sure," said Joseph Y.S. Cheng, a political scientist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which regains sovereignty of the territory in 1997.

Attempts to form the groups coincide with preparations by Britain to hold the territory's first general legislative elections, and China appears to have reluctantly dropped its opposition to such activity.

Analysts note the organisations will be different from Western-style political parties because they will not be able to form a sovereign government.

Instead, the territory's parties will be limited to trying to influence the outgoing British administrators and to pursuing whatever local power Peking permits under the "high degree of autonomy" promised for this capitalist enclave after 1997.

"The administration of Hong Kong will be in the hands of the Hong Kong people, so in that sense we still have a lot of power," said Yeung Sun, chairman of Meeting Point, a pressure group of about 300 members that views itself as a party in formation.

In recent weeks, businessman Stephen Cheong and lawyer Martin Lee, both members of the legislative council, have announced plans to form political parties. Councilor Maria Tam's Progressive Hong Kong Society also is mentioned as an emerging party.

Those groups are expected to participate in general elections to be held in 1991 for 10 of 56 seats on the council — primarily a forum to debate policy made by

LETTERS

To the Editor:

THE CAMPAIGN to clean up waste in Deir Alla, as reported in the Jordan Times, January 12-13, is commendable and should be supported nationwide. The steps which are being taken to establish national parks and serviced picnic areas in the valley are also excellent. My question though, is why should Jordan establish new national parks while the ones which have already been established are neglected and in states of disrepair? I speak specifically about Dibbin National Park ... which at its present state might be more aptly called, "Dibbin National garbage dump."

Several years ago, thousands of dinars were spent to establish a park in one of the lowest areas in Jordan. Weekend chalets, picnic tables, toilet facilities, playgrounds, and restaurant facilities were built to provide visitors with every possible need. At that time, Dibbin was a delight to visit. A small fee was charged at the entrance of the park, and the place was organised, clean and thriving. This is no longer the case. At this point, the whole complex is abandoned and the level of pollution caused by garbage and plastic bags is such as to render the area a probable health hazard instead of a weekend picnic ground.

This leads to the following questions:

1. Can Jordan really afford to develop

Live hard, die young

By Terry Leonard

The Associated Press

REGGIO DI CALABRIA — A lone assassin rapidly fired five shots at point-blank range through the window of a Pizzeria and then vanished into the winter night, riding a motorcycle.

He left behind three people dead or dying, three wounded and his Belgian-made, 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun — a trademark of an underworld killing.

The next morning, at a gas station across town, a mob-linked contractor opened the door of his bulletproof car and died, along with his son-in-law, a burst of submachine gun and automatic rifle fire.

The 'Ndrangheta — the name for the Calabrian underworld — has made a killing field of the faded cities and towns in the rugged hills and along the jagged coast of Italy's impoverished southern tip.

In the past year, 165 people have been slain in the province of Reggio Calabria, at least 50 of them in this city located on the toe of the Italian boot, across the Strait of Messina from Sicily.

The death toll compares with just 31 killings in the province of Rome, whose population of 3.7 million is more than six times that of Reggio Calabria.

Investigators say most of the Calabrian dead fell victim to a savage struggle for control of the drug trade or to a blood feud between two powerful organised crime families, a battle that has been waged for 25 years.

"In certain zones of Sicily, Calabria and Campania (Naples) the possession of the territory by organised crime is total," Domenico Sica, Italy's high anti-Mafia commissioner, recently told parliament's anti-Mafia commission.

The 'Ndrangheta — like Italy's other two major organised crime groups, the Mafia in Sicily and the Camorra in Naples — consists of many independent clans — each making its own deals and alliances with other crime families.

The bosses of the 'Ndrangheta, which means society of valorous men, rule their Calabrian territories through fear and intimidation.

Their retribution is swift and lethal, through cheaply hired killers.

One Rome-based investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the average price for a hired killing in Calabria is the equivalent of \$400. Freelance hitmen sometimes kill for free, hop-

ing to curry favour with a certain boss.

Drugs are at the core of the criminal empire that links the 'Ndrangheta with the Sicilian Mafia, Colombian cocaine kingpins in South America and heroin warlords in Asia.

Authorities estimate that Italian crime-bosses earn \$10 to 12 billion a year from the international heroin trade, and that sales of cocaine and other drugs may push the total beyond \$20 billion.

The 'Ndrangheta also profits from kidnapping rings that collect huge ransoms for reinvestment in drug deals, trading in counterfeit dollars, gun-running along the rocky coast and from "murder for hire" services.

Calabrian businesses pay extortion to avoid the torch, and corrupt politicians swell 'Ndrangheta coffers with millions of dollars misdirected from public works contracts, government development funds and investment schemes designed to benefit Italy's underdeveloped south.

To reassert control, the government proposes expanding the powers of police investigating organised crime and drug trafficking. One measure would give police for the first time the authority to conduct undercover investigations — something forbidden in a postwar Italy that remembers fascist abuses of police powers.

Interior Minister Antonio Gava also has promised better training for police, the formation of specialised departments, the creation of mobile groups to help in trouble spots and new local commissioners to oversee the war on crime in Calabria.

The government plans hearten Lieutenant Colonel Corrado Borru, the commander of the Carabinieri paramilitary police in Reggio Di Calabria on the frontline of the war against organised crime.

Borru said he believes the government can defeat the 'Ndrangheta, using the expanded powers and undercover operations to go after the leaders and stop the killing.

"It will be a struggle, really a long struggle," Borru said in an interview. "We must seek to stop this slaughter through the arrest of the big bosses who pull the strings of all the 'Ndrangheta operations."

But some other investigators question whether the Italian government has the political will to defeat organised crime.

Billions of dollars in illicit pro-

fits bolster the clout of the Mafia and 'Ndrangheta, and some politicians owe their careers to votes collected by the mob.

Privately some investigators admit they can't penetrate the tight-knit clans of the 'Ndrangheta and don't know enough about its operation or its relationships with the Camorra and the Mafia.

For example, they know the Calabrians help to smuggle tons of Morphine base into Italy from Southwest Asia, to refine it and sell it in Europe and the United States through contacts with 'Ndrangheta clans in Toronto.

But they don't know the details of the partnership with the Mafia, who really control the drug market, or how much the Camorra shares in the profits.

Underlings willing to testify against their Calabrian bosses are extremely rare.

"He who is blind, deaf and dumb will live a hundred years," advises an Italian proverb on the code of silence called the "Ometta" or "Diffidenza."

The government's enemy also is formidable in its sheer size. Police say there are 156 'Ndrangheta clans in Calabria, 93 of

Police records list slightly over 4,000 members of the clans in Calabria. But investigators have said they believe that for every clan member on the list, there are at least two who have escaped identification.

Police from all agencies in Calabria number about 3,600.

Borru and other investigators bristle at suggestions they need more manpower, apparently considering such recommendations a veiled slap at police effectiveness.

"It is not only a question or a problem for the police," said Borru.

The government, he said, must change the environment in Calabria that permits the 'Ndrangheta to flourish.

His sentiments are echoed by both national and local politicians, who believe Italy can never defeat the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria, the Camorra in Campania or the Mafia in Sicily as long as the regions are allowed to languish in poverty.

Calabria ranks at the bottom of the list of per capita income by region, with its citizens earning 44 per cent less than the national average.

Calabria's unemployment rate of 21.6 per cent is nearly twice the 11.9 per cent national average.

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"The aim of real development is the enhancement of the capacities of the poorest, their health and nutrition, their education and skills, their abilities to control their own lives, and their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labours." — (Photograph: Lars Astrom)

AFTER forty years of progress, large areas of the developing world are now sliding backwards into poverty, says this year's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF.

"By far the heaviest consequences" says the agency's Executive Director, James Grant, "are being borne by children". In the last twelve months, the report estimates that half a million children have died as a result of the slowing down or reversal of development.

Throughout Africa and Latin America, average family incomes have fallen by 10 per cent to 25 per cent since 1980.

For the poorest, this has meant cutting down on necessities. "In many of the countries for which figures are available" says UNICEF, "child malnutrition is on the increase".

Indebted governments have also cut expenditures on social services and this, too, has hurt children most. The 40 least developed countries have slashed spending on health by 50 per cent per head and on education by 25 per cent per head over the last few years. And in almost half the developing countries, the proportion of 6-to-11 year-olds in school is now falling.

"In many nations, the poor have seen very little benefit from the billions of dollars which were often so irresponsibly lent and so irresponsibly borrowed. Yet now, when the party is over and the bills are coming in, it is the poor who are being asked to pay."

"When the impact becomes visible in rising death rates among children, rising percentages of low birth-weight babies, falls in the average weight-for-height of the under-fives, and falling school enrolment" says the report, "then it is time to strip away the niceities of economic parlance and say that what has happened is simply an outrage against a large section of humanity."

Good news

By contrast, UNICEF has spectacular successes to report in the fight against major specific health problems. In this decade, the proportion of the developing world's infants who are immunised has risen from 5 per cent to well over 50 per cent. The result is a saving of over 1.5 million young lives and the prevention of approximately 200,000 cases of polio each year.

Similarly, the appalling toll of diarrhoeal disease — still the number one cause of death among the world's children — is finally beginning to fall as more

children are vaccinated.

• The harsh lesson of the debt crisis" says the report, "is that the

Real aid for real development

and more parents become aware of the low-cost treatment known as oral rehydration therapy or ORT. Almost unknown outside scientific circles at the start of the 1980s, ORT is now being used by more than 25 per cent of the developing world's families and is saving almost a million young lives each year.

Equally significant is the rapid spread of knowledge about timing births. Births which are 'too many or too close', or births to women who are 'too old or too young', are responsible for up to one quarter of all maternal and infant deaths world-wide. The fact that a majority of couples now have the knowledge to decide the number and timing of their births is therefore a major health advance, says UNICEF.

Going for growth

"These advances for children are among the greatest humanitarian achievements of our times," says UNICEF, "and they show that it is now possible to protect the lives and the growth of the vast majority of the world's young children at very low cost."

But both past achievements and future hopes are threatened by the continuing economic crisis.

"The individual development and social contribution of millions of children" says the report, "is being shaped by the economics of

recession and increased aid to unlock the doors to growth" says the report.

"Without growth, we will merely be rearranging the furniture inside the debtor's prison."

Growth in the developing world would also help to restructure the unsustainable imbalances between the major economies of the industrialised world, argues the report. Recession in the developing nations is estimated to have cost the economies of Europe, Japan, and North America several million jobs and tens of billions of dollars in lost exports during the 1980s.

Real development

Ironically, discussions on the debt crisis could now be re-opening the North-South dialogue on development cooperation. But UNICEF believes that action on debt, aid and trade to help put development back on the rails also depends upon a change in development's direction.

"The harsh lesson of the debt crisis" says the report, "is that the

poor have suffered most in bad economic times just as they benefited least in good economic times".

"This kind of development will not receive, and does not deserve, the support of the public. If a renewed development effort is to arise from the depths of the debt crisis, then its first priority should be the meeting of the essential needs of all human beings for adequate nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation, primary health care, adequate housing, and basic education."

Calling for "real aid for real development", the report reviews the low cost strategies now available for meeting basic needs. Stressing that political commitment is as important as financial resources, the report puts the cost at an extra \$30 to \$50 billion a year throughout the 1990s.

"It cannot be stressed too much" concludes the report, "that it is the international community as a whole which stands to gain from a renewed effort for real development".

"The persistence of poverty on this planet is ultimately inseparable from the issues of violence, instability, and environmental deterioration," says UNICEF's Executive Director. "International co-operation to meet the essential needs of all families is the greatest investment which it is possible for the human race to make in its future economic prosperity, political stability, and environmental integrity."

A summit for children

The child health achievements of the 1980s have shown that it is



"For almost nine hundred million people, approximately one sixth of mankind, the march of human progress has now become a retreat... large areas of the world are sliding backwards into poverty". — (Photograph: Lars Astrom)



Palestinians and Israelis don't spend much time talking to one another.

Ghosts and barbed wire

By Gail Fitter

Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — An emaciated Jewish ghost holds a Palestinian boy's hand behind the barbed wire of a Nazi concentration camp.

The drawing is one of 18 works by Italian artists created to express solidarity with the year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an exhibition "Arab Jerusalem", the Italian artists have been joined by four Palestinians and two Israelis.

Entitled "Kufia", Italian artists for Palestine ("Kufia" is the Arabic spelling of keffiyeh, the Arab headdress), it is the first display on the uprising in which works by foreign artists have appeared.

"I prefer to draw the Jew with the dress of the victim and not with the dress of the soldier, the oppressor, because victims are the same in all wars," said artist Vanro Senesi, describing his drawing of a Jewish ghost in prison uniform.

"Palestinian children in an Israeli prison are victims of a concentration camp. I think Jews who were in Nazi concentration camps can feel what Palestinian children feel in a concentration camp," the 35-year-old artist from Rome said.

Most Israelis, even those critical of the occupation, regard any comparison between their rule in the occupied territories and Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II as deeply offensive.

Italian artist Patrizio Aspasia said in a statement at the exhibition

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Oil prices continue rising

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. oil prices rose sharply Friday, hitting their highest levels since last April due to continued signs that the OPEC nations are cutting their high level of production.

Industry analysts said that with the group apparently sticking to new production quotas that began Jan. 1, prices would easily rise further this week to \$19 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark grade of crude oil, rose 31 cents to \$18.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange for the February contract. Prices last week have risen nearly \$1 from \$17.55 at last Friday's close.

The market was given a boost, when OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Thursday Jan. 12 that the group's output for January was forecast to be below its production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day.

The group agreed to the new production figures in late November. Since then, prices have risen more than \$3 a barrel amid signs that OPEC producers would not ignore this pact as they have the previous limits.

"The market is beginning to favourably view OPEC. Many believe they will cut (output)," said Jim Stet, analyst with Refco Inc. "I believe oil prices will challenge \$19 next week and will probably get over it. It's a strong market."

Even if January production figures reveal that OPEC is producing about 19 million to 20 million barrels daily, it will be a significant cut from December levels. The 13-member group

produced 22.76 million barrels in December, according to a recent Reuter survey.

"There are several other factors underpinning the market, and there are still a number of major oil companies which have not met their physical February requirements," said Nauman Barakat, broker with Prudential-Bache Securities.

"When there is a slight dip in prices you see them (the major oil companies) coming in to buy. I think that next week oil prices will approach \$19 and there is a possibility of breaking through that level," he said.

Domestic prices were also propped up by higher prices for North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded spot grade of crude oil. In New York, the blend was quoted at \$16.90 for February loading, up 40 cents.

Also pushing up Brent crude was the shutdown of the Brent Delta oil platform on Jan. 1 after

an explosion there. The platform had been producing 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil before the blast. No date is set for resuming production.

Another ingredient of the market giving it strength is the hope that certain non-OPEC producers will cut output after meeting with OPEC nations in late January in London.

Non-OPEC producers Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman and North Yemen will meet Jan. 25 to decide what form their cooperation with OPEC should take, the official OPEC News Agency said.

Figures for domestic crude stocks are also underpinning the oil market, analysts said. The American Petroleum Institute said U.S. crude stocks fell about 5.6 million barrels in the week ended Jan. 6.

Compared with year-ago levels, U.S. oil stocks were down more than 14 million barrels.

Stoltenberg urges rich countries to revamp strategy on world debt

WASHINGTON (R) — Rich countries must breathe new life into their Third World debt strategy because social and economic strains in many countries are getting worse, West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said Friday.

Wrapping up a two-day visit, Stoltenberg told reporters the debt crisis would be high on the agenda when finance ministers and central bankers from the seven industrial countries meet again, probably next month in Washington.

Stoltenberg, seeking to restrain the financial markets' expectations of the meeting, said it would not produce dramatic or sensational results.

Rather, it would be an opportunity to take stock of policy in the early days of the Bush administration and get to know the new Japanese finance minister, Tatsuo Murayama.

Currency discussions would take a back seat at the meeting because everybody in the Group of Seven (G-7) — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — saw eye to eye on the dollar, Stoltenberg said.

"Around current levels, this dollar exchange rate is reasonable and agreeable to all of us," he said.

In other remarks aimed at soothing nervous markets, Stoltenberg said his talks here had left him very confident about the prospects for reducing the federal budget deficit.

"There's a good chance that there will be an agreement between the administration and Congress for significant budget reduction at an appropriate time," he said, declining to elaborate on the reasons for his optimism.

Earlier Friday, Stoltenberg held what he called rewarding talks with Richard Darman, President-elect Bush's nominee for budget director.

America's trading partners have not spelt out what they want from the Bush administration in the way of deficit reduction, but some European officials feel a credible plan to meet the deficit targets embodied by the Gramm-Rudman budget balancing law would satisfy impatient financial markets.

The law stipulates a deficit in fiscal year 1990, which starts Oct. 1, of \$100 billion.



Gerhard Stoltenberg

The budget President Reagan submitted Monday envisages a drop in the deficit to \$92.5 billion from \$161.5 billion this year without raising taxes, but many economists believe that forecast relies on overly optimistic assumptions.

More than six years since the Latin American debt problem flared up, a solution to the region's \$420 billion burden remains elusive and financial strains are growing.

A finance ministry spokesman in Brasilia said Friday that Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor owing about \$118 billion, was seeking a bridge loan of \$3-\$4 billion.

Mexico arranged an emergency line of credit for \$3.5 billion from the U.S. Treasury in October. Venezuela, announced last month it was suspending principal repayments on most of its \$35 billion debt.

Stoltenberg ruled out global

debt forgiveness or bailing out commercial banks, but he said the G-7 had to weight "new elements" to incorporate into its debt strategy and must consider with debtors to recommend policy changes that would attract more private funds and staunch capital flight.

He made it clear, however, that the G-7 would not agree to the summit meeting that Latin debtors were seeking.

'Not all revenue increases are tax hikes'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Higher taxes on petrol, cigarettes and alcohol could earn more money for the government without breaking President-elect Bush's pledge against new taxes, Bush's chief budget adviser said Friday.

Asked by Congress to clarify Bush's position on new taxes, Richard Darman said in some circumstances taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and petrol, oil import fees and fees for government services such as entry to national parks might raise revenue as "user fees" without being labelled taxes.

"President Bush has stated that he would oppose all new taxes. That doesn't mean that all increases in government receipts are 'new taxes,'" Darman said in a written response to questions from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

While Darman did not advocate increased revenue from any source and did not foresee any

major changes in tax structure, his statement points out the political difficulty Bush and Congress will have in deciding how and if government revenue should be raised.

"Putting academics and sophistry aside, however, my suspicion is that in the end such definitional matters are political... if it looks like a 'tax' to most Americans, it's a tax," Darman said.

Many in Congress have said they doubt the 1990 federal deficit can be cut to the \$100 billion required by law without tax hikes.

Specific details of the Bush administration's tax and budget proposals will be unveiled by Bush about Feb. 9.

Even if Congress and the White House decide against new taxes, current tax laws will result in \$84 billion in higher taxes in the year beginning Oct. 1, according to White House estimates.

Meanwhile, the government

says the landmark 1986 overhaul of the federal income tax, which was widely advertised as having no effect on the budget deficit, actually will worsen the red ink by almost \$91 billion over a five-year period.

The 1990 budget that President Ronald Reagan sent to Congress Monday projects the new tax law will add \$24.4 billion to the deficit this fiscal year and \$20.3 billion in the year that begins Oct. 1. It resulted in an \$8.9 billion loss in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1988.

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) specialist disputed the Treasury Department's official explanation of why its new estimates differ so widely from earlier calculations.

However, one treasury aide suggested the problem is that the new estimates have no way of accounting for higher incomes that many economists think resulted from lower tax rates under the new law.

This explanation is based on the concept that underlies Reagan's economic policies: That cutting tax rates induces people to work hard, earn more and save more. Those higher incomes, in turn, would produce more revenue for the government.

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This explanation is

NBA Roundup

Jordan does it again

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan had 36 points, 10 rebounds, and 11 assists in his 10th straight loss, 107-101. 76ers 114, Hawks 10.

Charles Barkley had 23 points and 19 rebounds and Horace Grant scored 21 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Atlanta Hawks 114-101 for their fourth straight victory.

Lakers 116, Cavaliers 95.

Magic Johnson scored 26 points and handed off 11 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers swamped the Cleveland Cavaliers 116-95 in a rematch of the NBA's two-time defending champions against the league's winningest team this season.

Pistons 119, Bullets 103.

Adrian Dantley made 17 of 21 foul shots and finished with 35 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the Washington Bullets 119-103.

Bucks 107, Heat 101.

Ricky Pierce scored 23 points, including 16 in the pivotal third

Palestinians win 1st game

ROME (R) — A Palestinian national football team opened a European tour aimed at gaining world sporting recognition Saturday with victory against an Italian side.

Dressed in red and white, with their goalkeeper sporting a T-shirt bearing an anti-ida slogan, the team beat a squad of Italian journalists 3-0.

The tour, aimed at persuading the international Olympic com-

mittee to grant Palestine a place in the 1992 Olympics, will include other amateur matches in Italy as well as meetings with politicians. The squad goes to France on Jan. 20.

Security was tight outside Rome's Marble Stadium as police put about 60 Palestinian supporters through metal detector checks and body searches.

Israel has protested against the visit.

GORÉN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GORÉN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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THRUST AND PARRY

North-South: vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 4 2

♦ K 2

♦ A K 0 3 4 3

♦ 3

♦ J 7 6

♦ A 3

♦ 6 3

♦ A 10 7 6

♦ 2 4 0 5 2 5

♦ A 10 9 4 4 0 7 6 2

SOUTH

♦ K 10 9 5

♦ Q 10 4

♦ 9 2

♦ K 1 5

The bidding:

West — North — East — South

1 — 1 — 1 — 1

Pass — Pass — Pass — Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

It is always interesting to watch a able defense battle a competent declarer. This hand features excellent play by both sides, but declarer prevailed in the end.

Most modern players would make a negative double with the ace of trumps, and the contract was

make a negative double with the

South hand rather than respond one

spade. North's jump to three spades was rather aggressive, since his king

of hearts rated to be badly placed

and under five at trick one. However, the final contract was impec-

able—three no trump would be defeated if East shifts to a club when in with the ace of hearts.

Declarer put up the king of hearts on the opening lead, and East found the good shift to the queen of clubs.

When that held, he continued his fine effort with the jack of clubs, ruffed in dummy.

A low spade to the king won, and a careless declarer would now have fussed for the jack. While that

would have succeeded, the contract would not. In with the ace, East

would have forced dummy to ruff a club with the queen of trumps, setting up his partner's jack for the setting trick.

Declarer found a neat riposte. He

abandoned trumps in favor of casting his high diamonds. East could not afford to ruff the third diamond with the ace, so he discarded a heart and declarer got rid of his last club.

He came to hand with the queen of hearts and now he took a successful finesse for the jack of trumps. East

could do no harm when in with the

ace of trumps, and the contract was

make.

For information about Charles

Goren's newsletter for bridge play-

ers, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O.

Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-

4426.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I'm passionately, hopelessly, head-over-heels in hate with my husband."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALLEG

SOOME

YARFER

CHUPIC

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer tomorrow

Jumble, HARRY BISON, GRATIS FORKED

Saturday's Answer: What the professional crapsheet's business must have been—"SHAKY."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Desert Orchid turns on champion show

ASCOT (R) — Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite Desert Orchid turned in another champion display to win a valuable handicap steeplechase by a head Saturday. The race will go down in the record books as one of the brilliant Grey's finest performances. The useful Panto Prince, receiving 10 kgs from the 6-4 favourite over the 3.2 kms trip, would not give up the lead. But Desert Orchid, just as brave, kept niggling away at the leader and wore him down in the last stride.

Wilander and Graf given unknowns

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champions Mats Wilander and Steffi Graf were pitted against relatively easy first-round opponents for the 1.5 million-dollar Australian Open tennis championships at Friday's draw. Wilander, ranked No. 1 in the world and the tournament's top seed, will open against fellow Swede Tobias Svantesson, who is ranked 95th in the world, in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, being played at the national tennis center Jan. 16-29. Graf, of West Germany, the world's No. 1 women's player and top seed, was drawn against little-known Australian Kerrie Anne Guse.

Olympian to meet stiff competition

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersee, winner of two Olympic gold medals, will compete in the women's 55-meter high hurdles in the Meadowlands invitational Feb. 10 at the Meadowlands arena, meet officials announced Friday. Joyner-Kersee, Olympic champion in the heptathlon and long jump, won the Meadowlands hurdles race in 1987, setting a meet record of 7.45 seconds. This time, she is expected to receive strong opposition. Among the entries is Gail Devens, who shares the outdoor world record for the 100-meter hurdles of 12.61 with Joyner-Kersee.

Scott takes indoor mile

HAMILTON (AP) — Steve Scott of the United States won the mile and countryman Larry Myricks had the best indoor long jump ever in Canada at the spectator games track meet Friday night, the year's opening Grand Prix meet. Scott won in a time of 4 minutes, 5.7 seconds to beat Somalia's James Aden, 4:06.1, and Canada's Dave Campbell, 4:09. Myricks had a leap of 26 feet, 8 1/4 inches and Nick Saunders of Bermuda set a Commonwealth record in the high jump, clearing 7-8, 1-2. The previous record was 7-8, set at the Seoul Summer Olympics.

Girardelli wins World Cup downhill

KITZBUHEL (AP) — Austrian-born Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg conquered a tricky Hahnenkamm course Friday as he took the famed downhills World Cup race. Girardelli timed in 2 minutes, 1.25 seconds on the course that had a fresh layer of snow from the early morning hours. The course, which drops 890 metres, has a length of more than 3,500 metres. Second was Italian Michael Mair in 2:01.95 while third place went to Peter Mueller of Switzerland, 2:02.85. It was the 26th World Cup triumph this year for Girardelli, his first ever in downhill. He was won two slaloms this season. Favourites Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and Helmut Hoeflerner of Austria finished down the list as the snow covering slowed the course to make material selection important.

Navratilova faces Lindqvist in final

SYDNEY (AP) — Martina Navratilova and Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist advanced Saturday to the final of the \$350,000 New South Wales Open Tennis championships at White City.

Tyson back to training

LAS VEGAS (R) — World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was back in training here Friday after a sudden trip to Vancouver, Canada and a scuffle with news cameramen in a hotel where his estranged wife, actress Robin Givens, is filming a movie. The 22-year-old Tyson, returned to Las Vegas Thursday and early Friday was training for his upcoming title defense against top contender Frank Bruno of Britain. "I feel great," said a smiling Tyson Friday morning at the Las Vegas Hilton, site of the Feb. 25 bout.

Heroic football star meets mixed blessings

WESTWOOD (AP) — Karl Nelson's wife gave birth to an 8-pound, 5-ounce (3.7-kilogram) baby girl, just two days after the New York Giants tackle announced he had a relapse in his battle with Hodgkin's disease. Heidi Nelson gave birth to the Nelson's second daughter, Lindsay Rae, Thursday morning at Pascack Valley Hospital, said a hospital spokeswoman who did not identify herself. Nelson, 28, made a heroic comeback from his cancer that was first detected in August 1987 and returned to play for the Giants this past season. Just before the season finale with the Jets, doctors discovered he had had a recurrence of the Hodgkin's, which attacks the body's lymphatic system.

Japanese sweep top nine places

SAPPORO (AP) — With Akira Higashi in the lead, Japanese ski jumpers swept the top nine places Saturday in the 70-meter jump at the 17th Olympic memorial Rim cup ski jump competition. Higashi soared 90 metres, the day's longest jump, in his first run and 89.5 metres in his second jump for 222.4 points to win the competition, held on Miyanomori Hill near Sapporo. With the victory, Higashi became the first Japanese high school student to win an international ski jump competition in Japan.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Cupid will be in supreme control of this day. There is optimism and trust between people. Charming contacts, emotional satisfaction and friendliness produce interesting and fun social activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try not to criticize others. Avoid pushing your own ideas on them. The love bug may be at your doorstep waiting for an invitation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Good thinking creates an enjoyable clever plan for the family. Trust your own impulses. Find activities that are relaxing and fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take an active role in determining changes here. Offer a sensible plan for budget control. Spend pleasant time with friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) What seemed to slip away yesterday is now at your fingertips. You enjoy finishing home projects and clearing up personal matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 22) Structure your work so that you have time for young family members. Ultimate benefits come despite temporary frustrations.

VIIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You need patience with travel plans.

Young people look up to you. Spend more time with them. Shave worries over schedules, and let activities evolve in their own way.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your talents and resources to fix up your home. Young people play a role. Basic routines are boring until others bring some changes.

Young people play a role. Basic routines are boring until others bring some changes.

Figini wins second race

in 24 hours

GRINDELWALD (AP) — Defending overall champion Michela Figini won her second World Cup downhill in less than 24 hours Friday, posting Swiss women's 13th win in 14 races on this winter's circuit.

Figini flashed down the 3,046-metre course, the season's longest, in one minute, 55.32 seconds, more than half a second ahead of second-place Carole Merle of France.

Figini, who have indicated they will not be competing in the event next year, decided six days ago, on the toss of a 10-franc coin, that Vatanen would win the rally.

Figini clearly dominated her rivals, posting the best intermediate times. Merle, ninth after the first intermediate time, gained by skilfully negotiating the tricky, curving middle part of the course.

Beatrice Gafner of Switzerland, a surprising second Thursday, finished fourth in 1:56.74.

High temperatures and softer snow Friday made it easier to edge and find the shortest line down the course.

Figini, who slashed half a second off her winning time Thursday, said: "I really feel in top form. Obviously Friday the 13th is a lucky day for me."

"I made less mistakes today," she added.

Regine Moesenlechner of West Germany came in fifth in 1:56.93, followed by Elisabeth Kirchler of Austria.

Figini overtook Merle to grab third place in the season's overall World Cup standings with 109 points. Teammate Vreni Schneider leads with 232 points, ahead of Austria's Ulrike Maier, 118. Merle is fourth with 107 points.

Figini widened her lead in the downhill specialty standings, where she now has 90 points. Walliser follows with 57, and Merle with 47.

Figini won the season's opening Super-G race, is only racer to have broken the Swiss women's streak this winter.

Paris-Dakar

Wataganen completes fixed win

PARIS (R) — Ari Vatanen of Finland won the



Angolans give a warm send-off to Cuban troops last week at a ceremony in a military training camp in Funda.

Pretoria denies pact violations

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's military denied Friday an Angolan official's claim that it was supplying Angolan rebels in violation of a three-year peace treaty.

The South African defence forces said in a statement that the Angolan government should negotiate with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerrillas in order to complete the peace process.

Major Valeriano Martinho, an Angolan member of a commis-

sion monitoring the cease-fire between South Africa and Angola, told journalists visiting the area Thursday that monitoring posts had not yet been established in southeastern Angola.

Martinho also said he believed South Africa was continuing to supply UNITA through gaps in the border area between Angola and the South African-ruled territory of Namibia.

The South Africans and Angolans agreed, as part of a Dec. 22 treaty leading to Cuban withdrawal from Angola and South

African withdrawal from Namibia, to establish posts along the border. But the negotiations did not include UNITA, which has received aid from South Africa and the United States in its 13-year war with the Angolan government since losing power in 1979.

China and Vietnam fought a border war in early 1979 after Vietnamese forces ousted the Khmer Rouge from Kampuchea.

For years China had refused to open talks with Vietnam until it withdraws its troops in Kam-

pucea which Hanoi says now number 50,000.

Chinese officials tried to keep Liem's visit quiet, declining to comment on reports he was about to arrive even after his Air China plane had left Bangkok.

Liem headed the Vietnamese side in the last top level encounter between the two countries, which followed their 1979 border war. Two rounds of talks had ended in failure by December of that year and Liem left Peking in February, 1980.

His new mission to China, Soviet sources said, was made possible by Sino-Soviet talks last year aimed at normalising relations between the two communist giants after a break of almost 30 years.

China's pre-condition for a visit to Peking by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is that the Soviet Union first put pressure on Vietnam to withdraw from Kampuchea.

China and Vietnam fought a border war in early 1979 after Vietnamese forces ousted the Khmer Rouge from Kampuchea.

Peking indicated last week the way towards rapprochement with

Hanoi, Peking open first talks in 9 years

PEKING (R) — A senior Vietnamese official slipped quietly into China Saturday for the first direct talks between the two countries in more than nine years as international efforts to end the conflict in Kampuchea quickened pace.

Western diplomats said the official was Vietnam's first Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem.

Reporters at Peking's old airport, which is normally closed, peered through gaps between curtains and saw the official smile broadly and shake hands with his Chinese hosts.

A Chinese Communist Party source said the official would stay in Peking for several days to discuss Kampuchea, bilateral relations and arrangements for a possible visit to China by Vietnam's foreign minister, Nguyen Co Thach.

China is the main hacker of the Communist Khmer Rouge which has fought Vietnamese troops and the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government since losing power in 1979.

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Vietnam was open by welcoming Hanoi's offer to pull out its remaining troops from Kampuchea by September if a settlement was reached to the 10-year-old guerrilla war there.

COLUMN 10

Bush to be a tour guide Jan. 21

WASHINGTON (R) — In a bid to signal that he will run an open administration, President-elect Bush plans to mark his first full day on the job by leading a tour of the White House for whoever shows up at his front door. "It's a way of saying, 'I represent all of you and this is your house,'" transition spokeswoman Alice Glen said Friday. Glen said Bush will conduct the group on a first come, first served basis when the doors open for the regularly scheduled Saturday morning tour of the White House's public rooms Jan. 21.

Bush puppies on the way

ISLAMABAD, Florida (R) — As if President-elect Bush did not have enough trouble preparing to take over leadership of the country, he learned Friday his dog was pregnant. "I can announce that our dog is pregnant," Bush told reporters as he arrived in the Florida Keys for a fishing trip. "We expect puppies in the White House." The incoming U.S. leader, speaking tongue-in-cheek after fielding a barrage of questions about national and international issues, said Millie K., his three-year-old English Springer Spaniel, got in a family way Thursday and called it "a beautiful experience." "So on that family note, I will leave you all and hope that we don't have to bother each other over the next 48 hours."

Soviets buy Pushkin's letters

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union has bought a set of love letters by the 19th-century Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, the auctioneers Sotheby's said Friday. The hand-written letters, 11 of them in French and addressed to the poet's future wife Natalia Goncharova, will eventually be housed in a major new Pushkin museum. The Soviet Culture Ministry bought the letters with proceeds from an art auction in Moscow last July, which netted more than £500,000 (\$900,000). Sotheby's negotiated the purchase from the estate of the Russian-born French choreographer and dancer Serge Lifar.



George Shultz

Shultz reflects on 'crummy allies', turf wars, Gorbachev

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, reflecting on his years in the Reagan administration, praised Mikhail Gorbachev, told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to mind its own business and mused on the problem of "crummy allies."

"We don't want crummy allies, and sometimes you have to work with people that you don't like at all, but you need to do it at arm's length and with your eyes open," Shultz said in an interview with Washington television station WETA to be broadcast Sunday.

"One thing I do take out of all this, however, is that it's a mistake to cut off your ability to communicate with people. Keep your ambassador there so that you can talk to them. At least you can tell them how crummy they are and why you think they're

crummy."

Shultz, who heads for Stanford University in California after leaving office Jan. 20, did not specify which allies were the crummy ones but praised Soviet leader Gorbachev as sensitive to changes in international relations during the Reagan years.

"They (the Soviets) are realists... and I think the situation's changing in the world," Shultz said. "And I think Mr. Gorbachev has a very keen sense of it. He's a very able, smart person, and I think he sees this point."

Shultz rated the treaty with the Soviet Union to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces from Europe as one of the most positive results of his tenure at WETA.

"One thing I do take out of all this, however, is that it's a mistake to cut off your ability to communicate with people. Keep your ambassador there so that you can talk to them. At least you can tell them how crummy they are and why you think they're

forced out in July 1982, said of the CIA: "They should stick to intelligence and analysis and they shouldn't find policy so much fun."

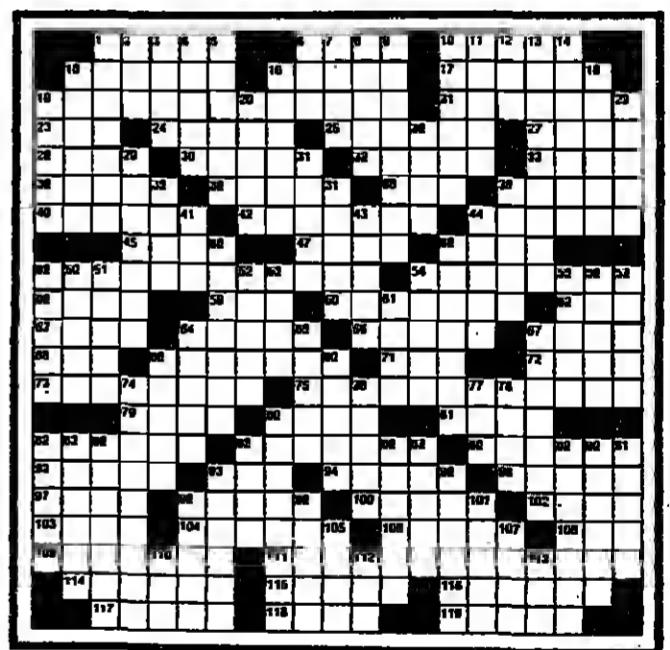
"I believe that the CIA got captured by its own ideas of what our policy should be on some occasions," Shultz said in the interview.

Referring to the attempt to sell arms to Iran in exchange for Americans held hostage in Lebanon, he said: "There was an example... toward the end of the Iran-contra affair in which the terrorist activities of Iran were very misdescribed in a very obvious way."

He said he would not play any role in the State Department under James Baker, appointed as secretary of state by President-elect Bush.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Rubric: You can fool most of the people most of the time, but that's all that's necessary!

2. A trio of ebow, bussoon and English horn might be all too ready for my show.

3. Dragging fishermen goes for big catch of catfish, but misses netting and falls to need.

4. Cattle usually graze best in a runny orbit circling sundry follow grounds and few feces.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FZ G12 LY FALLY Q11Q SNAFUZ G12

RNAHMZ IT LFOQS0RQ: OY QUHAB OR

R1SHQ0UZ Q11Q W1TQ FLR0F0M2 EL

GALTE, OQ WHAQ10TMZ GOMMI. — By Lois Sherry

2. RUWLBBLUT ONUS MTS CREAMTSY, ILLY

LERCLCT LAWS TNUOSE CLAIMS. — By Lois Sherry

3. EYOQ T1FVXP UKOJ LKFVLIQJ QVXO IPV

QXV LXSGRPQ AERSQQ EA, UKEY

QRTQXQFO. — By Sally L. Morris

4. MUCH TRAVEL ISPTOTY ROUSATZ GYME

GUMVSR VP IVR EOLVVC1Z AURUA. — By Ed Huddleston

FRACTURED ENGLISH

W. RUSSELL MC DOWELL

ACROSS

1 Lucky stroke

6 Skirt fits —

10 Bradbury's field

11 Young salmon

12 Torn

13 Misses a

14 Torn

15 Torn

16 Torn

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